





# THE COMMONWEALTH.

## THE BEAUTIFUL DECOY.

FROM THE UNPUBLISHED CHRONICLE OF A TRAVELER.

It is well known to all in any degree familiar with the history of Mexico, that a regular system of highway robbery exists in every section of that miserably governed country; and that through a want of interference of the authorities, this has grown up into such a regular and formidable shape, that every traveler must be prepared to put his life at hazard at every stage, or be provided with a suitable contribution for his *caballeros del camino* (the knights of the road) who, in the event of finding you prepared and willing, will make their levy with a politeness only equaled by the smiling landlord, when he receives your overcharged fare for your last night's entertainment. Why such systematic holdouts of robbery is allowed—if not with the connivance, at least with very rarely any interference, of the government or state authorities—is one of those mysterious matters which among many others, so puzzle and perplex the intelligent foreigners, but that such is the disgraceful truth, every traveler through that wretched country can bear ample testimony.

Some years ago, having business which first called me to the Capital of Mexico, and thence through the interior of the country to the northward, I met with several thrilling adventures, which I have recorded for the benefit of whomsoever may take an interest therein, omitting only the dates, they being non-essential to the interest of the narrations themselves.

The first of the series occurred on the route between Vera Cruz and the city of Mexico. In the regular diligencia, running between the places just mentioned, I had taken passage, and had passed through the beautiful city of Jalapa, and entered the gloomy town of Perote, without meeting with any unusual incident, though being continually warned to be on my guard against the dangers of the road. At Perote, where we halted for a relay and refreshments, all my fellow-passengers took leave of me, very solemnly assuring me that, if assailed by the *ladrones*, or robbers, it would be much better for me to take matters quietly, and suffer myself to be gently plundered, than to run the risk of having my throat cut for resistance, as I had somewhat boldly proclaimed it was my intention of doing. I thanked them for their advice, and replied that I would take the matter into serious consideration.

At Perote, I repeat, all who had been my companions from Vera Cruz took leave of me, this being the end of their journey in that direction; but there was one new passenger here to go forward, whom, to my agreeable surprise, I found to be a beautiful young lady, some twenty years of age.

Senorita Paula, as I subsequently ascertained her name to be, was indeed one of those rare beauties seldom met with except in works of fiction—tall, graceful, with a profusion of long, black hair—soft, clear, melting dark eyes—features as perfect as ever came from the hands of the sculptor, and with an animation the most fascinating, varying in expression with every changing mood of the intellectual possessor.

Glance at her bewitching dark eyes showed me that she was one who was naturally of social disposition; and as we rattled away from the gloomy town, I took the liberty of opening a conversation.

"They tell me," said I, "that the route between here and Mexico is a very dangerous one to travel."

"There is little to fear," she replied, with a sweet smile and in a melodious tone, "except from the professional robbers, and they seldom harm any one who makes no resistance."

"It seems strange to me," I rejoined, "that you Mexicans should take such things as a matter of course, and deem resistance a very impolite way of treating the knights of the road, instead of boldly asserting your rights, and abating the evil by a manly spirit of resistance. For myself, I must consider it the most cowardly of proceedings, for any respectable party to set out prepared to quietly gratify the cupidity of the *ladrones*, and unprepared to treat them to their just deserts."

"Every traveler, Senor," she replied, "should, before setting out, count the cost of his journey, and at once to me it is natural he should value his life highly, it seems to me natural that he should put a certain sum for positive safety, rather than put that life in jeopardy. For instance, in traveling from Vera Cruz to Mexico, if he will first reckon that so much is the fare by the diligencia, and that so much will be required for entertainment on the way, and so much for the contingency you speak of, he will then have the exact cost between the two points; and if he will look at the whole as the sum of his journey, he will not seem to be robbed by any one party more than another."

"That," I replied, "may be, I believe, is the Mexican mode of doing business, but does not tally with the preconceived ideas of us foreigners."

"But every one," replied the fair speaker, "should conform to the customs of the country he visits."

"And do you then go prepared for this highway robbery?" and have you no fear in this journey by yourself?"

"Well, Senor, what can I do? I am, as you perceive, an unprotected lady, who, for certain reasons, am required to make the journey between Perote and the Capital some time or twice a year, and you certainly could not expect me to go prepared to resist an armed band? As to fear, I will not deny it, but I have no share of that; but, so far, I have never met with any rough treatment, and of course I trust to the saints that my fortune will ever be as propitious."

"And have you really been robbed on your journey back and forth?" I inquired.

"I think I have paid my share to the *ladrones* for my transit through their country!" she laughed.

"And you expect to continue a repetition of the same for the rest of your life?"

"Who knows?" she replied. "At least I hope to be always prepared."

"And your fellow travelers?" said I; "have you never seen any disposed to resist these unlawful acts?"

"Once, Senor, an American and an Englishman, who were in the same diligencia with me, fired upon the robbers, killing one and wounding two."

"And did the robbers fire back?"

"Yes, but fled immediately, and fortunately injured none of our party."

"As I should have expected," returned I. "You were not robbed on that occasion, I suppose?"

"We were not, Senor; but the two foreigners subsequently paid dearly for their resistance; for in journeying back and forth, both were killed, separately and at different times, near the same spot. You see these crosses by the side of the road, Senor?"

"I have observed them frequently, but here they seem to be much more numerous," I replied, looking forth from the vehicle.

"Each stands on the spot where some one has met a violent death," she rejoined; "and as we go along, I will call your attention to those which mark the places where the foreigners met theirs."

"Do you know," said I, "that I am resolved to emulate their example, let the consequences be what they may?"

"Holy saints defend us!" she exclaimed; "you are not in earnest, Senor?"

"Of a dozen shots, and my friends have repeatedly told me I am not a bad marksman."

"Ah! Santa Maria! you will think better of this, Senor—the very idea of resistance terrifies me!"

"But not the idea of robbery?"

"Because I have never met with violence."

We continued to converse in a similar strain for some time longer—my fair companion gradually changing the subject, and seeming much interested in myself. I learned that her family name was Valerdez, that she was unmarried, that her father and brother were officers in the army, and so forth, and so on; and in return I gave her my own name, stated something of my history, business and prospects, and altogether became more communicative than I would advise any friend to be with any stranger of either sex in a strange country.

As we continued our journey, the conversation gradually changing from one thing to another, Senorita Paula suddenly brought it back to the point where it first opened.

"We are coming upon a dangerous part of the road," she said; "are you still resolved to defend yourself if assailed?"

"With your permission, Senorita?"

"I don't think it advisable," she replied; "but still if such is your intention, I think it no more than right that you should give me a chance to take a part in my defense, since my first of danger will be as great as yours!"

"And have you really the nerve, after all, to defend yourself?" I inquired.

"If I have the means, Senor!"

"I have two pistols," said I; "if you will accept one of them, it is at your service."

"You are very kind, Senor—but can I fire it?"

"With ease, Senorita," and producing one of my revolvers, I explained to her the manner in which it was to be used.

"And this, you say, will shoot some half a dozen times?"

"I think it safe to calculate that five charges out of the six will explode, Senorita."

"A very formidable weapon, indeed!" she replied; "and with such I can almost fancy we are safe. You have another, you say, like this?"

I produced it.

"What a beautiful invention!" she observed, reaching over and taking it from my hand. Then extending her hands, one of the revolvers in each, she continued: "Armed like this, one might almost count himself safe against a host! You say this is fired in this manner?" she proceeded, pointing to one of the weapons as she spoke, and pointing it toward the road.

"Have a care, Senorita, or you will discharge it!"

The words were scarcely uttered, when her finger pressed the trigger, and one of the barrels was exploded with a sharp report. A minute after, and while I was gently chiding her, we heard a loud, quick tramp of horses, and several sharp, rapid exclamations. The next moment our conveyance was stopped suddenly, and we saw ourselves surrounded by some eight or ten mounted men, one of whom, in a loud voice, exclaimed:

"Yield you prisoners or die!"

"Quick, Senorita!" said I, extending my hand; "quick! in Heaven's name! give me one of those weapons! for now is our time for decisive action!"

"Ay," she replied, putting the weapons behind her, "will you be so kind? Let them suppose we yield—let them open the door!"

"Oh, no! it will then be too late!"

As I spoke, the door was suddenly thrown open, and three or four swarthy, heavily bearded men presented themselves to my view.

"Quick, Senorita, for the love of God!" I cried, grasping at her arm.

"Hold!" she exclaimed instantly presenting one of my own revolvers to my head. "Resistance is useless—you are our prisoner!"

"Good God!" exclaimed I, perfectly astounded. "Our prisoner do you say? It is not possible that one so fair and lovely as yourself is in any manner connected with these banditti!"

"It is even so, Senor," she replied, with one of her most bewitching smiles, still keeping one of my own weapons turned against myself, and signaling by pointing the other to the door.

"You must be by stepping forward and giving yourself into the care of these good gentlemen, who will see that you are treated as a brave man should be, but who will trouble you meantime for any little change and valuables you might have to bestow."

There seemed to be no help for it—the beautiful Senorita Paula Valerdez was a spy and accomplice of the *ladrones*. She had entered the diligencia for no other purpose than to ascertain the exact condition of things inside, and be able to signalize her associates as she passed along, so that they might know exactly in what manner to conduct themselves and make their work sure without risk. By a simple stratagem she had obtained my arms, just at the point where she knew the attack would be made; and her discharge of the pistol, as if by accident, was the sign to show them that all was as expected.

"I acknowledge myself conquered by being outwitted!" said I, bowing to the Senorita.

Then turning to the robbers, who had now collected in a body, in front of the door of the diligencia, I continued:

"Gentlemen, will you permit me to alight and make you some valuable presents? In the language of your country, 'all I have is yours.'"

The leader of the party bowed politely in return, and said, with a grim smile:

"Si, Senor, we shall be most happy to receive anything which so distinguished a traveler may have to bestow."

With this I quickly stepped from the vehicle; and one quick, searching glance put me in possession of the whole state of affairs. The diligencia had been stopped in a wild, gloomy place, and the driver was sitting carelessly on his box, taking everything as a matter of course. He might also be an accomplice of the robbers, or he might not, but in either case, there was little hope of assistance from him—for any attempt of the kind would certainly bring upon him a severe punishment, sooner or later. I glanced up and down the road, where it wound between dark, overshadowing trees, but discovered nothing to give me any hope. The robbers, some eight or ten in number, and all well armed, were collected around me, part of them mounted and the others standing on their feet, holding their mustangs by the bridles. Looking upon my case as a desperate one, so far as being plundered was concerned, I still retained my presence of mind, and did not wholly despair. True, I had been outwitted, and disarmed, and now stood singly between numbers; but the idea of yielding tamely to this outrage was repugnant to my very nature, and I resolved to put the least favorable opportunity for defense and retaliation to the strongest test.

"Will you accept this purse?" said I, producing one that held several gold coins, and handing it to the chief of the *ladrones*.

"Thank you, Senor! you are very kind!" he said, as he took it in his hand, with a polite bow, and chinked the money.

"This diamond pin may prove acceptable to your friend?" I added, as I quietly removed it from the bosom of my shirt, and handed it to the gentleman on his left, who received it in the same polite manner. "This diamond ring I trust you will retain as a keepsake!" I continued, drawing the jewel from my finger, and presenting it to a third.

"I beg your pardon, Senorita," I pursued, glancing at the Senorita Paula, who, with my pistols still in her possession, was quietly standing within the diligencia, regarding the whole proceedings with one of her sweetest smiles. "I must not forget this beautiful lady! I have here," I went on, at the same time producing the article, "a very beautiful gold snuff-box—set, as you perceive, with diamonds—will your ladyship honor me by accepting this as a slight token of my regard for my conversation?"

"You are a very gallant gentleman, Senor!" she laughed, taking the two revolvers in one fair hand, and presenting the other.

I reached the box towards her—but my hand trembled a little—and just as the present was about to touch her fingers, it slipped and fell between us.

"A thousand pardons, Senorita, for my awkwardness!" I said, as I bent down to pick it up.

Now was the all-important moment—the moment of life and death! All were in a measure off their guard; and one quick, furtive glance showed me that the girl still held my weapons carefully in one hand, while the other remained extended for the prize.

I lifted the box myself; I gave a wild, start, but as the Senorita started back, I, with the quickness of lightning, seized both weapons, and wrenched them from her.

To wheel and commence firing upon the party, was now only the work of a moment. The first shot, fortunately, stretched out the chief; the second took effect on the one nearest to him; and by the time the third had been sent on its mission, and the astounded robbers began to dismay, and the astounded robbers began to scatter in every direction. I had no disposition to follow them, however; another minute they might rally and turn upon me; and springing forward, I grasped the reins of a freed mustang, and vaulted into the saddle. One more glance around me showed me the Senorita Paula upon the body of the chief, her laughter changed to grief, and some of the scattered robbers bringing her to the ground.

"Adios Senorita, and farewell!" said I, bitterly; "the laughs best who laughs last!"

The next moment I was dashing away down the road, the half-rallied robbers pouring after me a volley, but fortunately not touching their mark. They would doubtless have followed me in hot pursuit, but for the wholesome dread they had of my still undischarged weapon. As it was, I escaped, and entered the town of Puebla in triumph, where, it is almost needless to add, a narrative of my exploit made me a hero and a lion for the time. Here I sold my captured mustang and trappings for enough to indemnify me for what I had disposed of in the way of presents, and the next day saw me an inside passenger of the same diligencia, en route for Mexico, where I arrived in safety, without any further event worthy of note.

What was one of the robbers and their beautiful accomplice to me? I learned; but the lesson taught me on that journey I have never forgotten; and during the remainder of my stay in that country, no pretty woman ever had the honor of being my business confidante, or of getting possession of my trust and unflinching revolvers.

COULD'NT SUBSCRIBE.—A pair of those interesting entertaining ladies who of late seem to carry on so large a business in our down town offices and stores, in the way of procuring subscriptions for new works, selling engravings of the "Faded Landscapes," and other nobilities, and who (the ladies) are so fascinating in manner, so delightfully important, so sweetly up-and-down, called a morning or two since at the office of a young lawyer, to induce him, as the younger of the two expressed it, with a charming smile, "to subscribe to a most elegant work just published, to be got up in elegant style, with illustrations, &c."

"Indeed, ladies," said our friend, "I cannot, I have no doubt of the excellence of your work, but I am not in the want of anything of the kind. In fact, I do not feel able at present to subscribe to any new works of any description."

The partnership of which I am a member has lately been so imprudent as to issue a new work of their own, and the enormous expense attending its issue, not to speak of the illustrations, embellishments, and ornamental adornings with which they have seen fit to clothe the production—such unwarranted outlay has really for the present—in fact cripple me—sorry—but a fact—every word of it."

"But, ah!" interposed our enterprising agent, "perhaps we could procure you some subscribers for your work; our terms are quite reasonable. What do you call your work?"

"Well, we have not fully determined as yet; but I guess I shall let Mrs. S—have her own way and call it after myself, Charles Henry."

The ladies concluded they had an engagement in the next block.—*Exchange.*

A good one is told of a worthy deacon in the city of S., in Northern Ohio. The deacon was the owner and overseer of a large pork packing establishment. His duty was to stand at the head of the scalding trough, watch in hand, "time" the length of the scald, crying "Hog in!" when the first slaughtered hog was to be thrown into the trough, and "Hog out!" when the watch told three minutes. One week the press of business compelled the deacon to unusually hard labor, and Saturday night found the deacon completely exhausted. Indeed he was almost sick the next morning, when church time came; but he was a leading member, and it was his duty to attend the usual Sabbath service, if he could. He went. The occasion was one of unusual solemnity, as a revival was in progress. The minister preached a sermon well calculated for effect. His peroration was a climax of great beauty. Assuming the attitude of one devoutly listening he recited to the breathless audience:

"Hark! they whisper; Angels say—'A host in sin' came from the deacon's pew, in a stentorian voice. The astonished audience turned their attention from the preacher. He went on, however, unmoved—

"O Sister spirit, come away!"

"Hoo out!" shouted the deacon—"TALLY HO!" This was too much for the preacher and audience. The latter smiled, and winked audibly, while a few boys broke for the door to "split their sides" laughing, outside, within full bearing. The preacher was disconcerted entirely—sat down—arose again—pronounced a brief benediction, and dismissed the any thing else than solemn minded hearers. The deacon soon came to a realizing sense of his unconscious interlude. His peroration had been a climax of great beauty. Assuming the attitude of one devoutly listening he recited to the breathless audience:

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### FRANKFORT.

THOMAS M. GREEN, Editor.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1858.

#### Church Dedication.

The new building of the Methodist Church in Frankfort, will be dedicated on the next Sabbath, 19th inst., at 11 o'clock, A. M.

Rev. Dr. PARSONS will preach on the occasion. The public are respectfully invited.

#### Parson Brownlow.

There are few men in this or any other country who have become more notorious, (we cannot say famous) than him whose name stands at the head of this article. His eccentricities have gained him a sort of reputation which he evidently seeks, but which few men of his cloth would desire; and the fewer who crave for such unenviable fame, the better it will be for the advancement of the glorious cause of which he professes to be a disciple. His abusive, and we regret to say, sometimes scurrilous paragraphs, are copied far and wide, and although he has frequently meted out to sinners a richly deserved castigation, we are yet to learn that he has ever caused a bad man to repent, that he has ever confirmed a good man in the righteousness of his belief, or that he has ever furthered the cause of truth and undying religion in any shape, form, or manner whatever. We believe the Rev. Mr. Brownlow to be an honest, and not blinded by passion, a truthful man; but he is also a bitter, violent, bad tempered and ill-natured man; and these latter qualities often counteract the integrity of his motives. A man of decided talent, the effect of it is lost and overwhelmed in the contemplation of this infinitesimal of temperament. A minister of the Gospel, his temper bared as much resemblance to the mildness which characterized the Holy Christ, as prussic acid does to sweet milk. In short, he glories in the appellation of the "Fighting Parson," and boldly announces his willingness to fight the devil with fire, and to engage in a street fight with any one who is brave enough to stand before his pistol or avenging knife.

It is a matter of sincere regret to us that this gentleman has challenged the entire North to a discussion of the slavery question, the very challenge breathing everything of coarseness, but nothing of the spirit of one really desiring to make the truth apparent. The invitation to debate partook more of the character of the hoarse bawling of the prize fighter bawling a brother of the ring to exchange black eyes and bloody noses, than of the courtesy of a gallant knight who fights for the justice of his cause and the peerless beauty of his lady love. The defiance having been accepted, our quarrelsome preacher entered upon a correspondence with his antagonist, in which he was as insulting and uncourteous as only Mr. Brownlow can be towards one who differs with him. His letters, however, were only preliminary to the onset about to follow, for in the very first reports of the discussion it appears that it has already grown angry and denunciatory. The parson has announced his personal contempt for his antagonist, and insinuated to him a willingness to fight him with carnal weapons of warfare.

Now we submit to our readers the correctness of our fear that Parson Brownlow's pilgrimage will do more harm than good. Will the efforts of this abusive, ill humored man, accomplish anything for the cause of truth? He has already lost his temper, and with it his judgment has departed. Nothing is to be gained by abusing the Abolitionist in Brownlow's style, for they will lose sight of the argument in their exasperation against their reviler. He will inflame rather than soothe the northern prejudice against the institution of slavery. Why, no more stunning argument could be adduced against the effects of the institution than presenting Brownlow, himself, as an illustration of its disastrous consequences; if it produces such ministers of the Gospel, what are its effects upon sinners? But we protest against Brownlow being esteemed as the criterion of the Southern preacher. We do not object to Brownlow debating on his own hook with any one who is adventurous enough to encounter him; but we do most vehemently repudiate the idea of his being the accredited ambassador and missionary, the chosen champion of the South to defend her interests and institutions. His crusade will add to his present notoriety, but it will do no good for his section. The South does not require her institutions to be defended among men who have nothing to do with it, and when she does, better men than Brownlow will be selected to uphold her standard.

PROFESSOR FELLOWS had another crowd last night, at the Baptist Church, to hear his lecture on the intellect; though the public delineations of character seemed to us to be the principal attraction. The peculiarities of many of our citizens are certainly undergoing a pretty thorough ventilation at the hands of this lecturer, who appears to be a master workman in his profession. He speaks again to-night on Phrenology proper, and will continue his lectures through this week and a part of next. He gives private delineations with charts daily, at the Mansion House.

X.

GODY'S LADIES BOOK for October has been received, and is for sale by KREXON & CURTIS, it is filled with beautiful engravings, fashion plates, &c., and has its usual variety of reading matter. From a hasty examination of this, we think it is the best number of Gody we have ever seen, and that is saying a good deal. Call and buy a copy.

Meeting in Henry County. At a meeting of the friends of the improvement of the Kentucky river, held at Lockport, Henry County, Ky., Sept. 3d, 1858, J. M. Rowlett, Esq., was called to the chair, and S. B. Davis was appointed Secretary.

After the object of the meeting had been explained by the chairman, a motion was made that a committee of three be appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting. Whereupon the chair appointed Nathan Roberts, J. C. Douthard and Chas. Abrams, to serve on the committee, who reported the following resolutions which were read and unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That by practical experience we appreciate the benefits the improvement of the Kentucky river has wrought upon this country, and on the counties bordering thereon, and we as Kentuckians, feel that justice demands that our efforts

be directed to the improvement of the Kentucky river, which have not as yet enjoyed the same benefits as it should be put in the possession of the same.

Therefore be it further resolved, That the further improvement of the Kentucky river, as proposed in accordance with an act passed by the Legislature at its last session, will not only be a benefit to the counties bordering on the Kentucky river, but a benefit to the State at large, as it will develop and make available the vast mineral resources, together with those of salt and timber, which we consider one of Kentucky's greatest bounties.

Therefore we resolve, that we will use all proper efforts to our power, and assist by means and otherwise, without ceasing, until this great enterprise shall be accomplished.

Also, that we will attend the general meeting contemplated to be held at Frankfort, and heartily unite with those who may convene there.

On motion, it was resolved that the proceedings of this meeting be published in the newspapers of Frankfort, and that other papers friendly to the cause of internal improvement be requested to copy. When on motion, the meeting adjourned.

J. M. ROWLETT, Chairman.  
S. B. DAVIS, Secretary.

From the Cincinnati Daily Times.

#### All Smoke.

Under the above caption, in Dickens' "Household Words," we find the following poignant but truthful picture of civilized society in Old England, which, in the middle of the nineteenth century, and so long under the benign influences of Christianity, too, exhibits a scene so utterly at variance with all modern pretensions to morality in a Christian people, that it would even disgrace any country which we have the assurance to call heathen and looks more like progressive backwardness than otherwise.

But we on this side the Atlantic have nothing to boast of in this respect neither; for if the mantle don't fit our own shoulders, then the page of history telleth not the truth. The events of the last twenty years, to go no farther back, shows up, in bold relief, what mischief a great commercial nation like ours is capable of doing when vicious competition, in the individual and insane haste to get rich, and which brings no happiness withal, takes the sole possession of the minds of a people.

There is more truth than poetry in the stigma thrown upon us by our neighbors—"a nation of swindlers!" although we might justly retaliate by admonishing to "pluck the mote," &c., and to mind their own business. Still, as a Christian people, with loftier assumptions and far superior privileges to all the world besides—still are we doubly guilty before God ourselves, and every one partially divested of prejudice will acknowledge the same. But here follows an extract from the article alluded to—

"What would you that I should see?" asked the wizard once more from out the cloud.

"I would," I replied, "that you should see something of which all just men are ashamed, something (though carefully placed beyond the reach of our laws,) which is, in its nature, opposed to all principles of honesty, and upright honest truth. Now, Oh, magician! what do you see?"

"I see," he replied, "a large, handsome man, in which are many young men, engaged in writing, whilst others are occupied in counting piles of gold, and large bundles of crisp bank notes. The gold and the notes are the property of the men and women who, with smiling faces and glad hearts (they having earned them by hard and patient toil) confidently hand them across the mahogany counters to the young men—

Above the door of this room, upon the row of fire buckets which are hanging there, and upon the books in which the young men write, appear these words—'The Royal Swindling and Deceit Joint Stock Bank.'

"Whilst I look, however," the magician went on to say—

"I perceive that the windows of the large room are closed, though it is day, and that the men and women are crowding round the outer door, the better to read a paper there fixed. There is an awful, ghastly shadow of despair upon their faces as they read."

"By this, Oh, magician! I infer that the Swindling and Deceit Joint Stock Bank has been commercially unsuccessful. Where, then, is the monstrous unjust wrong which I want you to point out to me?"

"I see," said the wizard in response, "many gentlemen of irreproachable respectability, who are termed 'Directors' of the Swindling and Deceit Joint Stock Bank; they live in country houses surrounded by undulating and well wooded parks, and extensive pleasure grounds, as befits the dignity of their high position. They have many horses in their stables, which, (it is the wonderful prerogative of my art to reveal,) to pluck and supported by the money of the bank. There are many dogs in their kennels, paid for and supported by the money of the bank. There are many servants in their servant-hall, paid for and supported by the money of the bank. There are many guests (alas! that friendship can be purchased with gold) in their magnificent drawing rooms—paid for and supported by the money of the bank. There are pianos, hot houses, ice-houses, confectioneries, bric-a-bracs, bronzes, tapestries, and there are luxuries of every variety, and from all climes—all of which, my art reveals to me, have been, for long years past, paid for and supported by the money of the bank!"

"I see," he went on, "bankrupt firms of all descriptions—but all wonderfully alive in respect to money having been possessed of one farthing of legitimate capital—which, hanging for years upon the verge of ruin, have been invincibly supported, (as, what would be the value of a Director's friendship if they had not been?)—by the money of the bank!"

"I see," he continued, speaking quietly, as a man might in treating a matter of so little moment, "that the country gentlemen of irreproachable respectability have forged balance sheets—have paid large dividends from fictitious capital—have delivered annual speeches full of eloquence and lies—and have, generally acted up to the responsibilities of their position, by making things as pleasant as possible. This, Oh, ferretter! is what I behold."

"But let me still better understand, Oh, wizard! what the simple meaning of this strange vision may be. I gather that your supernatural art reveals to you that the country gentlemen of irreproachable character have been living upon money which were not their own—is that the case?"

"That they have, in fact, appropriated and spent cash which is not their own?"

"Even so."

"That, therefore, having become amenable to the righteous laws, of which we nationally are so justly proud, they have been punished, as they well deserve? Look again!"

"I see object poverty," continued the Ulema. "I see hopeless ruin—I see the sudden uttering of the hopes of many years—I behold giant despair in struggles with death! These are the punishments which have fallen upon the foolish men and women who confidently entrusted the hard won earnings of long years to their hands. But know, Oh, inquirer into hidden things, that it is the special peculiarity of your social system and your righteous laws, that country gentlemen of irreproachable respectability shall not be shaken from their high position by such trifling accidents as mere appropriation of other people's money."

Had the writer of the above meant to hit the United States right and left, he could not have

done it more effectually or more truthfully. If any palliation can be offered, England, might, perhaps, have the benefit of it—like an old, worn out delusion, being, in a manner, past redemption; but with us the case is different. Let the truth be told. The sooner we come to a confession of our sins the better. And heaven grant this confession may be sincere, and rub off the sins of the thousand and one swindling men in our midst, which have disgraced our Christian name and "made us the reproach of neighboring States."

If the late extraordinary exhibition of contrition for our sins proves a failure, then, indeed, may we presume our professions of religion all a sham; only a rubbing off the iniquities of the past—a kind of bankrupt act from heaven's chancery court, with a fresh license to begin de novo.

This is not religion—it is practical atheism! infidelity of the worst character. This has been too long the case with us as a Christian people in general, on both sides the Atlantic. Who so bold as deny it? Why shut our eyes to it? Let us no more of it—Materials for Thinking.

#### Items by Telegraph.

##### INDEPENDENCE, Sep. 12.

The New Mexican mail, with dates of the 2nd ult., has arrived.

Capt. McLean who reached Santa Fe on the 2d ult., reported that no doubt a battle had been fought between the command of Major Brooks and the Navajo Indians. The Indians had heretofore declared they would not fight, and in case of their refusal, the Major intended to burn and destroy their wheat and corn-fields, which, if done, would doubtless cause collision between the Major and the troops. The Indians have offered Major Brooks several thousand sheep and one thousand ponies to indemnify him for the loss of his negro.

The Santa Fe Gazette, in a long article, attempts to justify the Indians in their conduct.

Col. Sumner's command passed at Walnut Creek, moving south. No Indians were seen on the plains; grass still good.

##### LEAVENWORTH, Sep. 12.

The Pike's peak gold excitement is a perfect mania in this place. Two companies left for the gold region last week. Another will leave this week. A large organized company, with General Larimer and Judge Heningray, bankers, at its head, will leave about the 20th, with every thing necessary for wintering in the mountains and mining in the spring. Reports from the diggings continue flattering.

##### St. Louis, Sep. 15.

Prominent gentlemen from the West fully corroborate the statements relative to existing rich gold diggings in the region of Pike's Peak. A company of one hundred persons left Kansas City on Monday last, and other companies are being formed in nearly all the towns in the Territory and along the Missouri river. Isaac Eaton, of the Kansas Stage Company, arrived here yesterday for the purpose of buying mules and making necessary arrangements to extend the stage line from Fort Riley to Pike's Peak.

##### Port Jax, Sep. 15.

Morrill, Republican candidate for Governor, has been re-elected by eight or nine thousand majority. Mr. French (Republican) has been elected to Congress from the third district by a trifling majority, and Mr. Johnson, as the first returns seemed to indicate. The delegation consequently continues all Republican.

##### Bayonet, Me., Sep. 15.

The returns from 191 towns give Morrill, the Republican candidate for Governor, 37,222, while the opposition is 30,298. This indicates that the Republican majority will be nearly 10,000.

The election of Ezra B. French in the Third Congressional District and of Stephen C. Foster in the Sixth District is now rendered certain.

##### Washington, Sep. 15.

It is understood that Gen. Denver has resigned the Governorship of Kansas, to take effect in the course of a few weeks. It is probable that he will resign his former position as commissioner of Indian affairs.

Sector Benjamin of Louisiana has declined the offer of the mission to Spain.

There is reason to believe that Mr. Forsyth the Minister to Mexico, will not return to the United States till October. At last accounts he was on the eve of leaving for Tokyo.

##### St. Louis, Sep. 15.

The first anniversary of the Steam Fire Department was celebrated yesterday by a grand parade of all the engines, seven in number, and a trial exhibition of each engine. The average time of raising steam was about six minutes, and the average distance thrown through one hundred feet of hose, fuel and a quarter—222, was two hundred and thirty feet. With the exception of one of these engines, they are all of Latta's patent and of the same class. The whole affair was very creditable, both to the Department and the city.

##### LANCASTER, Pa., Aug. 15.

The Democratic county convention nominated James M. Hopkins for Congress by acclamation. He accepted the nomination, declaring his opposition to secession and to abolitionism, in favor of admitting Kansas with any population, and a tariff that will put every farmer in the State in toil bust.

A fire occurred this morning in the United States Customhouse, causing damage amounting to about \$10,000. A number of valuable papers in the office of the naval officer were destroyed, and the building flooded with water.

Later—The fire commenced before daylight, having caught accidentally from the lamp of a watchman in the messenger's room. It burned out several of the offices with the valuable statistical records of the exports and imports at this port. The damage to the building is considerable and the total loss it is thought will reach \$40,000.

THE HERMON MEDAL.—The medal ordered to be prepared by the Virginia Legislature, in honor of the late Captain Herndon, of the ill-fated steamship Central American, and presented to his widow, has been finished. From a description of it in the Richmond Enquirer, we copy the following:

The Herndon medal is of pure gold, about two inches in diameter. On one side is depicted in bold relief the scene of the tempest, the lifeboat crowded with passengers and struggling with the waves, the steamer half dismantled and the heroic commander standing resolutely on an elevated part of the wreck. The necessarily small scale of the picture does not admit of any strict accuracy in the depiction of the human figures, but like the beautiful symbolic engravings from the antique, it is sufficiently distinct to relate in an unmistakable form the new well known story of the Christian hero's self sacrificing devotion. Around this device are inscribed the following words: "Devotion to duty, Christian conflict, and genuine heroism respect bears the following inscription, surrounded by a delicate olive wreath, wrought with exquisite finish and minuteness: 'Presented to the widow of Captain William Lewis Herndon, United States Navy, by Virginia, as a testimonial of respect for her virtuous son, a noble and gallant officer. 1858.'"

A colony of white people has just been located in Florida, on the ground deserted by Billy Bowlegs.

A child was killed in Prescott, N. H., the other day, by phosphorus from matches.

#### Wines and Liquors Used.

I am not at all surprised, Mr. Editor, to see a disposition to abandon wines from the sacramental tables, when I recollect what a vast amount of vile imitations of the different varieties of liquor-calls are in our markets, and how many of them I have no doubt, imported and so perfectly so, that the imitations that they can only be detected by chemical tests. During the summer of 1856 I analyzed a lot of liquors for some conscientious gentlemen of our own city, who would not permit me to take samples to my office, but insisted on my bringing my chemicals and apparatus to their store that they might see the operations. I accordingly repaired to their store and analyzed samples of sixteen different wines. Among them were Port Wine, Sherry Wine, and Madeira Wine. The distilled liquors were some pure, and some vile and pernicious imitations; but the wines had not one drop of the juice of the grape! The basis of the Port Wine was diluted sulphuric acid, colored with elder berry juice, with alum, sugar, and neutral spirits. The base of the Sherry Wine was pure malt, sulphuric acid, prussic acid, and iron filings. The basis of the Madeira was a denaturation of hops, with sulphuric acid, prussic acid, honey, &c., spirits from Jamaica rum. The same week after analyzing the above and exhibiting the quality and character of the liquors to the proprietors, a section of one of our churches in armed militia had purchased a gallon of the above Port Wine for sacramental purposes on the next Sabbath, to be used in their church on the next Sabbath, for sacramental purposes, and that for this vile mixture of sulphuric acid, alum, and elder berry juice he paid \$2 75 per gallon.

That those who do not think of abandoning this delightful beverage, either as a drink, or medicinal purposes, or sacramental emblems, may be capable of discriminating between a pure article of wine or a mixed or a vile imitation of it, I will give a few reliable tests, viz: First, heat a small quantity of the liquid over a spirit or oil lamp till the vapor begins to rise. If the liquor be mixed, or an imitation with spirits added, by touching a lighted taper to it will immediately take fire and continue to burn till all the added spirit is burnt out of it. If then the fire is increased till ebullition or boiling takes place, and the vapor will burn by the application of the taper, it is mixed with wine. If the pure spirits of pure wine will not take fire until the liquor is brought to a boil.

There are many other chemical tests which are infallible, but few can apply them. I therefore give the most simple but reliable. Second: If an article which is represented to be pure juice or pure port wine should be suspected, heat as above. If the vapor will not burn when first it rises, nor will take fire from the application of the taper when ebullition is produced, you may rely that there is not one drop of wine in the sample, and if by holding some of it in your mouth a short time, and then spitting it out you find your teeth on edge, or upon grinding them together they appear to adhere, as if the enamel was softened, you may rely on it that that article is diluted sulphuric acid, as a base, with other ingredients to give aroma, &c.

I have given the *modus operandi* of such adulterations on the mucous membrane of the human system in numerous articles written on the subject of poisonous liquors, and shall conclude this with a request that if you think it will conduce to the public weal you give it a place in the Gazette.

Very respectfully, &c.,

HIRAM COX, M. D.,  
Chemical Ins. of Liquors for Hamilton Co., O.  
Cincinnati, Aug. 1858.

#### MED.

In this city, on Tuesday morning, the 14th inst., Wm. K. Taylor, in the forty first year of his age.

Mr. Taylor was son in law of Maj. Luckett, and with him kept the Mason House for several years previous to his death. He was a member of the Episcopal Church of this place, and a most esteemed citizen. His loss is deeply regretted.

#### B. B. Sayre's School

Of English, the Ancient Classics and the Mathematics.  
Will be in session 12 weeks from and after the 27th September. TERMS \$5 PER ANNUM. [Sept. 15, 1858—m.]

#### Professor Kueman

DR. POE has been elected to the position of Professor of the German Language in the University of the City of New York, and will commence his duties on the 1st of October. [Sept. 15, 1858—m.]

W. M. TODD,  
No. 1, SW 2nd St., Frankfort, Ky.

BOOKS AND STATIONERY

BOOTS AND SHOES

TRAVELING TRUNKS.

PAPER HANGINGS.

NOTIONS IN VARIETY.

Full Supply Received. Call and See.  
September 12, 1858.

School Notice  
J. C. MATHIAS, of the Kentucky College, and a graduate of the Georgetown College, Ky., will open a school for boys in a room over the Engine House, in this city, on Monday, September 14th, at 10 o'clock, for a term of six weeks. At \$40 per scholar, payable in advance. The remainder of the term, 1858.

References—Rev. C. Lewis, J. E. Tharp, and the Faculty of Georgetown College.  
Frankfort, Sept. 8, 1858—m.]

MERIWETHER'S HOTEL,  
Corner Broadway & Ann Sts., near the R.R. Depot,  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY.

THE subscriber having purchased the late "Broadway Hotel," and entirely refitted and refurbished the very best manner, is prepared to accommodate the traveling public. And from his past experience, he is perfectly satisfied that those who favor him with a call, will find his table and accommodations equal in every respect, to the best hotels in the Union.

Sept. 14, 1858—m.]  
B. MERIWETHER,  
Frankfort, Sept. 8, 1858—m.]

ELEGANT STOCK

FALL & WINTER CLOTHING

CHARLES B. GETZ'S,  
Corner of Main and St. Clair Sts.,  
Frankfort, Ky.

(CITIZENS OF FRANKFORT AND VICINITY WILL find at my establishment, the most desirable selection of Men and Boys' Apparel.)

Clothing and Furnishing Goods,  
SHIRTS, HOSIERY,  
UNDER GARMENTS,  
GLOVES, CRAVATS,  
EMBROIDERED, &c., &c.,  
Ever exhibited in this city.

My Goods have been selected with great care, and at prices which will enable me to sell as cheap, or cheaper than any other house in the city.

My stock of BOYS' CLOTHING was never so complete, and I invite the special attention of parents to this department.

An examination of my stock is respectfully solicited, as I am confident that any one in want of Dress Coats, Vests, Shirts, Drawers, and every kind of wearing apparel, cannot fail of finding the article to suit among my stock.

CHARLES B. GETZ,  
Corner Main & St. Clair Sts., Frankfort,  
Sept. 8, 1858—m.]

## SPECIAL NOTICES.

### To the Voters of Kentucky.

I am a candidate for re-election as Auditor of Public Accounts. My past official conduct is the only guarantee that I can offer for the future.

Sept. 15, 1858—m.]  
THO. S. PAGE.  
All the papers in Kentucky will publish the above notice free of charge, and send bill to T. S. P.

### JOHN L. MOORE & SON,

ARE RECEIVING THEIR LARGE STOCK OF

FALL AND WINTER GOODS,  
IN GREAT VARIETY,  
AND AT VERY LOW RATES!

Sept. 10, 1858—m.]

### Liberia.

The emigrants in Kentucky who intend going to Liberia in this Fall's expedition, will please report themselves to me by letter, at Frankfort, Ky. I shall leave Frankfort for Baltimore on the 25th of October, 1858, to be in time for the sailing of the vessel to Liberia. The public press in Kentucky will please publish this notice.

ALEX. M. COWAN,  
Ag't. Ky. Col. Soc.  
Frankfort, Sep. 13, 1858.

### Rheumatism Cured!

Not less than about twenty thousand cases, of this painful and paralyzing disease, have already been cured by the use of Dr. Mortimore's celebrated remedy. These comprise cases of every seeming form of the disease, from those of a recent inflammatory (acute) character, to old Chronic cases of ten, twenty, and even thirty years standing, and this after the patients had long been given up as incurable by eminent physicians. Some had taken voyages across seas, spent years of residence in the most salubrious climates, visited the various "Water Cure" establishments, and celebrated Springs, both in this country and Europe, yet had still remained crippled, until they used this remedy, and by its use have been restored to health.

This is a vegetable—internal remedy, prepared and recommended for this one disease alone. It is pure, and is perfectly safe to be used in any state of health, even by the most delicate female or child.

Evidence of the highest possible character from physicians, clergymen and others, is published in behalf of this remedy, such as to give character to every intelligent or reflecting mind. This evidence will be furnished to any address desired. The medicine is sold at \$5 per bottle, five bottles for \$20, or \$40 per dozen, and will be sent by Express, or as directed, to any part of the Union. Apply to or address

Dr. D. MORTIMORE,  
Third St., opposite Journal Office,  
Louisville, Ky.

August 30, 1858—1y.

POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL.

The undersigned will open the 16th session of his school on the first Monday in September next.

Young men who design to become Book Keepers, Surveyors, Civil Engineers or Draftsmen will be qualified for their respective professions.

Pupils thoroughly prepared to enter either as Freshmen or Sophomores in any College.

The standard of morals in this school will continue to be second to none.

TERMS PER SESSION OF 24 WEEKS.  
Board and tuition, invariably in advance, \$30  
Clothing alone 20

E. A. GAINES,  
Principal.  
FRANKFORT, KY. JULY 17, 1858—m.]

NEW FIRM.

PAGE, GAINES & PAGE,

Having associated ourselves together for the purpose of doing a general business in the way of Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Queensware and Agricultural Implements will hereafter keep a large stock of the above articles always on hand.

The Dry Goods and Queensware for the present will be kept at the old stand of T. S. & J. R. Page, under the supervision of J. R. Page, where will always be found a large and fashionable assortment of Fancy and Staple Goods of the latest styles and lowest prices. The Grocery establishment, combined with all kinds of Agricultural Implements, Hardware and Woodware, will be kept at the old stand of W. A. Gaines, and under his supervision. We will keep but one set of Books, so that persons dealing with us can have their Grocery and Dry Goods bill combined. Terms cash, or to prompt customers six months.

THOS. S. PAGE,  
W. A. GAINES,  
JAS. R. PAGE.

LIBERIA,

AS I FOUND IT, IN 1858,

By Rev. A. M. COWAN,  
Agent Ky. Colonization Society.

1st Pages, Royal Octavo.  
Just published and for sale at this office. Price 75 cents. We will send a copy, postage paid, to any one sending us that amount in money or postage stamps. June 18, 1858—m.]

Special Notice—To the Public.

We hereby notify our friends and patrons that on and after the 1st of January, 1859, we will consider all accounts due semi-annually, viz: 1st of January and 1st of July; and on all accounts not promptly paid at that time, interest will be charged until paid. Thankful for the liberal patronage of our friends and the public, we solicit a continuation of the same, knowing that under our new arrangements that we can and will make it to their interest to patronize us.

We will continue to keep a good assortment of goods for gentlemen's wear.

GILLISPIE & HEFFNER.  
Jan. 11, 1859—m.]

SPRING MILLINERY.

Mrs. MARGARET HERRENSMITH has received by Adams Express a fine assortment of SPRING MILLINERY, which she will sell at the lowest market price.

(Mar. 10—m.]

Nurse Wanted.  
A liberal cash price will be paid for a good nurse.  
R. W. BLACKBURN.  
June 30, 1858—m.]

## STATEMENT OF THE CONDITION

### OF THE

### Charter Oak Life Insurance Company,

OF HARTFORD, CONN.,

To the Auditor of the State of Kentucky, July 24, 1858.



